

**SUMMARY OF THE  
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 4, 1999**

The Proficiency Testing Committee of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) met by teleconference on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, at 1 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The meeting was led by its Chair-elect, Ms. Barbara Burmeister of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. A list of action items is given in Attachment A. A list of participants is given in Attachment B.

**INTRODUCTION**

Ms. Burmeister led today's conference call in Ms. Anne Rhyne's stead.

**STATUS OF PT CHAPTER AND APPENDICES**

After several rounds of revisions, the chapter has been submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for posting on the NELAC Website. Some of the latest changes include:

- addition of Appendix F on Environmental Toxicology
- addition of language to Section 2.7.5 which describes the protocol to be used by Accrediting Authorities for PT samples of questionable quality (introduces the Accrediting Authority Review Board)
- addition of language describing PT sample composition (Section B.1.2)
- removal of language about pass/fail criteria
- other editorial modifications

**STATUS OF NEW MEMBERS**

Ms. Burmeister reviewed the status of the selection of new members for the PT Committee. She said that Ms. Anne Rhyne had contacted the person chosen by the committee as the new government member, but the position was declined due to a previous commitment. Ms. Rhyne has been unable to reach the alternate, but will continue to try. The names of new members must be submitted to Ms. Jeanne Mourrain by May 12, 1999.

**STATUS OF FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

Ms. Burmeister informed the committee that the first set of FAQs by the PT Committee have been posted on NELAC's Website.

## **SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Matt Caruso said that the subcommittee's next goal is the review of acceptance limits by EPA Office of Solid Waste. Then discussions will focus on homogeneity. He also stated that the appendix on solid waste will probably not be ready for the NELAC V annual meeting.

## **EPA/NIST/EMMC ITEMS**

Ms. Reenie Parris said that there will be a teleconference on Monday, May 10, 1999, from 1-2 p.m. (EDT) to discuss radiochemistry. Attendees will include representatives from the NELAC PT Committee, USEPA, NIST, and USEPA-Las Vegas. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss PT standards with respect to comments received regarding the current language of the radiochemistry appendix.

**ACTION ITEMS  
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 4, 1999**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date to be Completed</b>
1.	Finalize selection of new PT Committee members.	5/12/99

**PARTICIPANTS  
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 4, 1999**

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